

Center for Women's Global Leadership



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Greetings

The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) is pleased to [announce the hiring of Radhika Balakrishnan as its new executive director](#). She will begin her duties on September 1, 2009, and will join the faculty as a full Professor in the Rutgers Department of Women's and Gender Studies as her academic affiliation. As Radhika begins her tenure at CWGL, founder and current executive director, Charlotte Bunch will begin her transition to a new role as Senior Scholar to the Global Center.

In January, CWGL welcomed back Mary Jane Real, coordinator of the [Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition](#) (WHRD IC) as a Visiting Global Associate (VGA). Jane spoke at the March 26th Rutgers [Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Laurie Chair event](#) and plans to be with CWGL through July 2009. In early March, CWGL was deeply involved in the 53rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. At the CSW, CWGL participated in a plethora of activities and strategy meetings. One of many outcomes from the CSW was the launch of the GEAR Campaign petition (see below).

Finally, the Center is looking forward in the coming months to a number of exciting initiatives including a WHRDIC strategy meeting, CWGL programming at the 11th Session of the Human Rights Council, and the celebration of CWGL's 20th anniversary.

Highlights

GEAR UP

Building a Stronger United Nations that Works for all Women!

At the conclusion of the last session of the General Assembly in September 2008, Member States adopted a resolution by consensus requesting the Secretary General to develop a paper on institutional options for the new gender entity, addressing the identified gaps and challenges of the current UN system. The modalities paper, as it is known, was made available at the closing of the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on Friday March 13, 2009, and presents all four options initially outlined in a previous DSG paper including: A) the status quo; B) an autonomous fund/programme; C) a department; and D) the composite. The paper assesses the ability of each option to fulfill the functions previously outlined in the DSG's papers (August 1, 2007; July 23, 2008) with a particular focus on the composite entity (option D). At the "system wide coherence" meeting the Secretary General endorsed the composite, or hybrid, option as "the most promising." The GEAR Campaign still favors the composite option with meaningful participation of civil society and an ambitiously funded entity, led by an Under-Secretary General. [READ MORE...](#)

Update from the Human Rights Council

In March, CWGL staff attended the tenth Human Rights Council (HRC) session, which saw continued Universal Periodic Review reporting, as well as discussions about April's UN review of the Durban World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and other Related Intolerances and further discussion about integration of a gender perspective into the HRC's agendas and programming. As a result of colleagues' efforts to promote attention within the HRC to maternal mortality, over 80 countries signed a groundbreaking [statement](#) on rights issues related to this global concern, which takes the lives of an estimated 500,000 women a year. In addition to attending the HRC, staff attended an NGO meeting on next steps in UN organizing on sexual rights concerns.

Announcements

[Women Living Under Muslim Laws Demands the UN Resolution on Combating Defamation of Religions be revoked](#)

Who Inspires You?

MADRE wants to hear from you! Send pictures or videos of the people who inspire you to change the world. Email madre@madre.org.

In Appreciation

CWGL would like to offer a special thank you to staff and affiliates for their dedication and hard work over the last couple of months. The work of CWGL could not be accomplished without the support of: Alyssa Cocchiara, IWL Scholar; Desiree Ficula, Student Intern; Nathalie Margi, Program Assistant; and Aissa Oliva, Student Assistant.

A special thank you goes to Lucy Vidal, CWGL Information Manager, for her diligence and leadership within the Executive Director Search Committee.

CWGL at the 53rd CSW

CWGL participated in the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) from March 2-13, 2009 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The 2009 priority theme was "the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS." This year CWGL accredited 85 representatives to the CSW, co-sponsored eight events, co-coordinated two Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) strategy meetings, and sponsored with UNIFEM and OSAGI a day long consultation on strategies to advance the UN Secretary General Campaign against VAW.

In terms of gender equality architecture, the CSW provided a unique opportunity for advocates to come together and build support for strengthening the UN system in its ability to deliver concrete and meaningful results for women around the world. CWGL is a co-facilitator of the GEAR Campaign, and in that capacity co-hosted two strategy meetings with the Campaign Working Group Regional and Global Focal Points along with a number of other organizations in the NY Lobbying Group ([Working Group list](#)). The GEAR team lobbied UN missions and promoted the campaign in regional and thematic caucuses.

The Linkage Caucus, which has its roots in organizing at the 1995 Beijing Conference and is co-convened by CWGL and WEDO, met four times during the CSW and spurred advocacy about gender architecture within the UN system. The Caucus launched a [petition](#) calling for the creation of a new women's entity. [READ MORE](#)... For photos from the CSW, visit [CWGL's Flickr page](#).

Actions

[GEAR Petition](#)

Support the GEAR Campaign and sign the petition calling for the creation of a new women's entity ambitiously funded at the UN as well as for meaningful civil society participation to be integrated into all stages of its development and functioning.

Resources

[CWGL Publications Now Available in PDF](#)

CWGL has authored and co-authored over 20 publications, which are now all available in pdf on the CWGL website. The publications span from 1991 to 2006 and highlight a number of momentous occasions in the women's human rights movement and cover topics such as sexuality baiting, violence against women, lesbian rights, human rights education, and more.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence



On March 3, 2009, CWGL collaborated with OSAGI and UNIFEM to co-convene a consultation on the UN Secretary-General (SG) [UNite to End Violence Against Women](#) Campaign with a number of civil society organizations. The SG Campaign, which was launched in February of 2008, has recently taken steps to actively involve civil society, noting the vital role that such organizations have played in building momentum for the anti-violence against women movement. At this consultation, participants brainstormed in small groups and generated sets of recommendations for the Campaign, which will soon be presented to the Deputy Secretary-General. For Charlotte Bunch's presentation please click [here](#).

Preparations for the upcoming 2009 16 Days Campaign are already underway! In early April, CWGL began the consultation process with women's human rights activists and organizations worldwide to develop the theme for this year's campaign. CWGL encourages you to submit your suggestions for a theme and slogan based on the following thinking points: the Beijing +15 commemoration (2010), the 10th anniversary of the UN's formal recognition of November 25 as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the UN Secretary-General's UNite to End Violence Against Women Campaign. We look forward to receiving your feedback at 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu!

Upcoming Events

- **May 18-29, 2009:** [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#), 8th Session, United Nations, New York, USA
- **June 2-19, 2009:** [Human Rights Council](#), 11th Session, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
- **June 10-12, 2009:** [NCRW](#) Annual Conference, New York, USA
- **June 12-20, 2009:** [The Sexuality, Gender and Rights Institute: Exploring Theory and Practice](#), CREA, Istanbul, Turkey
- **September 2-4, 2009:** [NGO Forum to mark the 15th anniversary of ICPD](#), Berlin, Germany

Contribute

CWGL needs your support to continue our work for women's human rights. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to fund our efforts.

To support CWGL, please [click here](#).

About Us

The Center for Women's Global Leadership develops and facilitates women's leadership for women's human rights and social justice worldwide. It was founded as a project of Douglass College in 1989 and is a unit of the [Institute for Women's Leadership \(IWL\)](#)—a consortium of women's programs at Rutgers University created to study and promote how and why women lead, and to develop programs that prepare women of all ages to lead effectively.



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